DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEY

| As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention (Design, if applicable) entitled DATA DISTRIBUTION METHOD, DATA SEARCH METHOD, AND DATA SEARCH SYSTEM. |
|--|
| the specification of which (check one): |

| | | • | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| ⊠ | is attached hereto. | | | (:4 |
| 0 | was filed on | as Application Serial No | , and was amended on | —— (11 |
| | applicable). | | | G |
| | was filed on as Ir | nternational Application (PCT) No | , and was amended on | —— (¹¹ |
| | applicable) | • | | |

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with *Title 37*, *Code of Federal Regulations*, § 1.56(a). I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under *Title 35*, *United States Code* § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which the priority is claimed.

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

| Number 2002-344452 | Country Japan | DAY/MONTH/YEAR FILED 27 November 2002 | PRIORITY CLAIMED |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 2002-344 (32 | | | Yes No |
| | | | |
| | | | Yes No |

I hereby claim the benefit under *Title 35*, *United States Code*, § 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating The United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of *Title 35*, *United States Code*, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in *Title 37*, *Code of Federal Regulations*, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| ccurred between the filing date of the prior app | Sheatron(s) and the national of 1 | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| APPLICATION NUMBER | FILING DATE | STATUS (Patented, Pending or Abandoned) |
| APPLICATION NUMBER | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine, or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: I (We) hereby appoint as my (our) attorneys, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Stanley P. Fisher, Registration Number 24,344; Juan Carlos Marquez, Registration Number 34,072.

Send correspondence to:

REED SMITH LLP

3110 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 1400

Falls Church, Virginia 22042

Telephone calls to:

Stanley P. Fisher

(703) 641-4211

| Full Name of First or Sole Inventor Tsunehiko WATANABE | Citizenship Japan Post Office Address Street c/o Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd. 4-12-7, Higashishinagawa | |
|---|---|--|
| Residence Address - Street c/o Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd. 4-12-7, Higashishinagawa, | | |
| City Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo | City Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo | |
| State or Country Zip Japan 140-0002 | State or Country Zip Japan 140-0002 | |
| DATE | SIGNATURE | |

Version 11.1.99

ATTORNEY DOCKET No.: HIRA.0131

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEY Page 2

See following pages for additional joint inventors.

| Full Name of First or Sole Inventor Junji YOSHII | Citizenship Japan | |
|---|--|--|
| Residence Address - Street c/o Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd. 4-12-7, Higashishinagawa, | Post Office Address Street c/o Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd. 4-12-7, Higashishinagawa | |
| City Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo | City Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo | |
| State or Country Zip Japan 140-0002 | State or Country Zip Japan 140-0002 | |
| DATE | SIGNATURE. | |

| Full Name of First or Sole Inventor Tadashi MIZUNUMA | Citizenship Japan | |
|---|--|--|
| Residence Address - Street c/o Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd. 4-12-7, Higashishinagawa, | Post Office Address Street c/o Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd. 4-12-7, Higashishinagawa | |
| City Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo | City Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo | |
| State or Country Zip Japan 140-0002 | State or Country Zip Japan 140-0002 | |
| DATE | SIGNATURE | |

| Full Name of First or Sole Inventor Yuichi MINESAKI | Citizenship Japan | |
|---|--|--|
| Residence Address - Street c/o Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd. 4-12-7, Higashishinagawa, | Post Office Address Street c/o Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd. 4-12-7, Higashishinagawa | |
| City Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo | City Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo | |
| State or Country Zip Japan 140-0002 | State or Country Zip Japan 140-0002 | |
| DATE | SIGNATURE | |

| Full Name of First or Sole Inventor Fumitoshi OGURA | Citizenship Japan | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd. 2-7, Higashishinagawa, Post Office Address Street c/o Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd. 4-12-7, Higashishinagawa | | |
| City Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo | City Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo | |
| State or Country Zip Japan 140-0002 | State or Country Zip Japan 140-0002 | |
| DATE . | SIGNATURE | |

ATTORNEY DOCKET No.: HIRA.0131

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEY Page 3

See following pages for additional joint inventors.

| Full Name of First or Sole Inventor Keisuke YAMAMOTO | Citizenship Japan | |
|---|--|--|
| Residence Address - Street c/o Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd. 4-12-7, Higashishinagawa, | Post Office Address Street c/o Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd. 4-12-7, Higashishinagawa | |
| City Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo | City Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo | |
| State or Country Zip Japan 140-0002 | State or Country Zip Japan 140-0002 | |
| DATE | SIGNATURE | |

| Full Name of First or Sole Inventor Tateo NAGAI | | Citizenship Japan | |
|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| Residence Address - Street c/o Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd. 4-12-7, Higashishinagawa, | | Post Office Address Street c/o Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd. 4-12-7, Higashishinagawa | |
| City Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo | | City Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo | |
| State or Country Japan | Zip 140-0002 | State or Country Japan | Zip 140-0002 |
| DATE | | SIGNATURE | |